

CLAIMS:

1. A method for outputting audio-visual signals on a client system, including:
selecting (I) a selected input from at least one local input (12,12',12'',18) and at least one network input (11);
5 if said network input (11) is selected as said selected input:
receiving (II) network signal data representing said audio-visual signals at said network input;
outputting (III) at an output (15) said audio-visual signals in a for humans perceptible form;
10 and if said local input (12,12',12'',18) is selected as said selected input:
selecting (IV) from a local signal database local signal data representing said audio-visual signals;
outputting (III) at said output (15) said audio-visual signals in a for humans perceptible form;
15 **characterised in that,**
said step of selecting (I) a selected input is performed in an automated manner based on at least one predetermined criterion.
2. A method as is claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least one
20 predetermined criterion is based on a property of said local signal data
3. A method as is claimed in claim 2, wherein if said local input is selected said predetermined criterion is based on a property of said audio-visual signals being outputted.
- 25 4. A method as is claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least one predetermined criterion is based on a predetermined relation between a parameter related to the amount of transmitted local signal data and a parameter related to the amount of transmitted network signal data.

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5. A method as is claimed in claim 4, wherein said predetermined relation is the ratio of the amount of transmitted local signal data and the amount of transmitted network signal data.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one predetermined criterion is based on a parameter related to the costs of said network signal data.

7. A method as is claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one first predetermined criterion based on a predetermined relation between a parameter related to the amount of transmitted local signal data and a parameter related to the amount of transmitted network signal data based on a parameter related to the costs of said network signal data is used and at least one second criterion and wherein irrespective of said first criterion said input (12,12',12'',18) is selected as said selected input as soon as said at least one second predetermined criterion is satisfied.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein if said local input (12,12',12'',18) is selected as said selected input further said receiving of said network signal data is performed simultaneously and said network signal data is stored in a buffer memory means (17) as buffered data.

9. A method as is claimed in claim 8 wherein a second step of selecting (I) a selected input is performed after said local input (12,12',12'',18) is selected and if in said second step of selecting (I), said network input (11) is selected as said selected input said buffered data is used (IX) for providing network signal data.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein simultaneously with said step of receiving network signal data (II) a metadata reception step (XIII) of receiving metadata is performed, and said method further including a metadata output step (XIV) of outputting said metadata in a for humans perceptible form.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said metadata includes pricing data representing pricing and selling information relating to said audio-visual signals.

12. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said metadata is displayed on a visual output means.

13. A method as is claimed in claim 1, wherein said network signal data is obtained from a server computer system (2,2',2'') which is communicatively connected to said network input (11) and said method is performed on a client computer system.

14. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said audio-visual signals are audio signals.

15. A client system for outputting audio-visual signals including:
at least one network input (11) in use communicatively connected to at least one server system (2,2',2''), said server system (2,2',2'') in use transmitting network signal data representing said audio-visual signals to said network input (11);
a memory means (12,12',12'') provided with local signal data representing said audio-visual signals;
a switch device (13) in a local mode communicatively connected with a first switch input contact (13') to said memory means (12,12',12'') and in a network mode communicatively connected with a further switch input contact (13'') to at least one network input (11), said switch device (13) having a switch output contact (13''');
an output device (15) communicatively connected to said switch output contact (13'''), which output device(15) in use outputs said audio-visual signals in a for humans perceptible form;

characterised in that,

said switch device (13) is arranged to be controlled by a control device (14) for automatically switching said switch device (13) depending on at least one predetermined criterion.

16. A client system as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one of said at least one predetermined criterion is based on a property of said local signal data.

17. A client system as claimed in claim 16, wherein if said switch device (13) is in said local mode said predetermined criterion is based on a property of said audio-visual signals being outputted.

18. A client system as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one predetermined criterion is based on a predetermined relation between a parameter related to the amount of transmitted local signal data and a parameter related to the amount of transmitted network signal data.

19. A client system as is claimed in claim 18, wherein said predetermined relation is the ratio of the amount of transmitted local signal data and the amount of transmitted network signal data.

20. A client system as is claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one predetermined criterion is based on a parameter related to the costs of said network signal data.

21. A client system as is claimed in claim 18, wherein at least one first predetermined criterion based on a predetermined relation between a parameter related to the amount of transmitted local signal data and a parameter related to the amount of transmitted network signal data and at least one second criterion based on a parameter related to the costs of said network signal data are valid and wherein said control device (14) is arranged to switch said switch device (13) to said local input as soon as said at least one second predetermined criterion is satisfied, irrespective of said first criterion.

22. A client system as is claimed in claim 15, wherein said network input (11) is connected to a buffer memory (17) for storing network signal data as buffered data, said buffer memory (17) having a buffer output connected to said switch device (13).

23. A client system as is claimed in claim 15, further including a selection device (18) for selecting local signal data from said local signal database, said selection device (18) being communicatively connected to said local signal database (12,12',12'') and to said switch device (13).

24. A client system as is claimed in claim 15, further including a network selection device (16) for selecting one of a plurality of server systems (2,2',2'') said selection device being communicatively connected to said at least one server system (2,2',2'') and to said switch device (13).

25. A client system as is claimed in claims 15, wherein said at least one server system (2,2',2'') in use further transmits metadata and said client system further includes a metadata output device (15) communicatively connected to said network input (11).

5 26. A client system as is claimed in claim 20, wherein said metadata represents pricing and selling information about said audio-visual signals.

27. A client system as is claimed in claim 25, wherein said metadata output device (15) is a visual display device.

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28. A computer program for running on a computer system, characterised in that the computer program contains code portions for performing steps of a method as is claimed in claims 1 when running on a computer system.

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29. A data carrier containing data representing a computer program as is claimed in claim 28.

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